

The Organized Farmer

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

10128 - 98th Street, Edmonton, Alberta. Phones 25481 - 25965

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Special Notice

We are requesting every person nominated for the Alberta legislature to indicate whether or not he or she will give general support to the Provincial section of the F.U.A. program if elected. The list of those giving a favorable response will be printed in the June issue.

Don't forget to support our Jr. Stampede Queen Candidate

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GENERAL SCIENCES

President's Report

Another month has gone and Central Office still resembles a hive of bees. The mailing of the April issue of the Organized Farmer was the heaviest in our history, some 25,000 copies and there are still perhaps another thousand names to add to the list. It has been a tremendous job, with the equipment we have, to cut addressograph plates and revise the mailing list for some 16,000 new subscribers. However it will soon be completed. We regret very much that some of our new members have had to wait so long to get their paper. However unless we had bought a lot of expensive new equipment the delay was unavoidable. In any case all subscribers will get a full 12 issues for their fifty cents.

I hope that you all have heard at least some of our radio broadcasts. Perhaps you wonder why no mention was made of them in the April issue of the Organized Farmer. The reason is that at first it was only planned to have four or five broadcasts and the April issue was too late to advertise them. The March issue was already printed before the broadcasts were decided upon. Later the Executive decided that the broadcasts should continue for some weeks longer. When this decision was made, it was too late to catch the April issue.

It is already evident that Alberta farmers face another late and wet seeding. The disastrous floods in Saskatchewan have already created a near-crisis there. It is all very well for Mr. Howe to remark flippantly that "a crop is never lost in May." Actually many farmers have lost a crop this month through flood. His un-called-for remark will not console farmers whose land is under water. It is easy for well-paid officials to be cheerful over farmers' misfortunes.

At this time of writing (May 10) we are preparing our presentation to the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons. Later this month I expect to go to Ottawa with representatives from the other farm Unions. Before this appears in print the meeting will probably have been held. We are not going down there for fun. We shall place before the committee the need for a New National Agricultural Policy. This policy will embody Parity Prices in the home market and price support on saleable exports. This is our main point. We shall also stress the need for the extension of the P.F.A.A. into a real Crop Insurance plan. Others matters connected with grain handling and producer marketing will be taken up. A full report will be carried in our next issue.

On the evening of May 9, a meeting was held between the F.U.A. Executive and the Government members of the Legislature. This is the

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first time that such a meeting has been held, at least since the days when the U.F.A. Government was in power. This meeting is a part of our policy of closer working relations with both Provincial and Federal representatives.

At this meeting, we had besides our full Executive, a representative group of M.L.A.'s including our Minister of Agriculture and several others. We presented to them a 7 point memorandum and the discussion on this lasted from 7:30 to 10 p.m. It was a most interesting meeting. The discussion was on a high plane and each subject was discussed on its merits.

This meeting was our own idea. In calling it, we did not expect to get immediate results. But I am sure that the information received, and the good feeling engendered will before long bring results.

When this paper reaches you, District conventions will not be far off. This year with our large new membership, I expect to see much bigger and better conventions than last year. I want to stress the importance of all locals being represented at their District Convention. These conventions are the clearing house for the ideas of all the locals in each district. But they are more than that. It is at these conventions that you elect your leadership at the District level. Here is where you pick out the men who in time will serve in the highest places in your Union.

This year we have the greatest membership in history. Farmers have great problems before them. Individually they cannot solve them. That is why many joined the Union. But more than mere membership is needed, if we are to get adequate results. Active and informed membership is what really counts. That is why I always

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

stress the importance of District Conventions. Attendance at yours is the most profitable way to spend a summer day.

The same argument applies to the sub-district conventions which are being held in some districts before their District Conventions. At them all members can take a full part. Our sub-district setup is also very important. We must establish better connection between the locals and the sub-directors. This is the place to do it. It is not hard for members to attend their sub-district convention. In most cases the distances are not great. Please realize the importance of attending to your Union business as well as your other farm business.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE RE METHODS TO GET ACTION

This second questionnaire did not receive the attention of as many locals as we would have liked, only 251 locals have reported to date; in time for this issue of the Organized Farmer.

Perhaps this is due to the matter which it contained. On the whole much study and consideration is evident at the local level by the large percentage on a possible method that can be put into practice by our membership.

In making up this report it has been necessary to compile the different suggestions under a very limited number of headings dealing with a similar subject rather than attempt to classify them under the sections given on the questionnaire. To deal fully with it, would have taken up the entire space of this paper.

QUESTION 1. — "What methods should the F.U.A. use to get action from the Provincial Government on the Provincial part of our Program?"

REPLIES:

- A. Contacts with M.L.A.'s** — Bring pressure to bear on the government by closer co-operation and more consultations with the M.L.A.'s by the board and locals, by personal contact, letters, telegrams, resolutions, petitions or briefs 149
- B. Delegations** — The Board of Directors or Executive to continue sending well informed delegations to meet with the government, cabinet or Minister of Agriculture as the occasion may require 102
- C. Candidates** — Ascertain candidates' stand on F.U.A. policy before elections. Vote only for the candidates who are sympathetic and will support the F.U.A. program, regardless of party affiliations 54
- D. Membership** — Continue to work towards 75-100 per cent membership 44

- E. Public Meetings** — Locals to invite their M.L.A. to more public meetings, and district conventions 19
- F. Direct Action** — Direct action to be taken if all other means fail 26
- G. Mass Delegations** — Organize a mass delegation to call on the Government 9
- H. A.F.A.** — Have the A.F.A. make all representation to the Government 7
- I. Lobbying** — Have lobbyists attend all sessions of the Federal Government 6

QUESTION 2 — "What methods should we use to get action from the Federal Government on Federal Matters?"

REPLIES:

- A. Delegations** — Continue to send carefully chosen delegations to Ottawa 66
All presentation to be made through I.F.U.C. 50) 116
- B. Contact with M.P.** — Bring pressure to bear on the Federal Government by personal interviews with the M.P., by letters, briefs, resolution and petition 89
- C. Send delegations in co-operation with the A.F.A. and C.F.A.** 29
- D. Organize a strong National Farmers' Union** 9
- E. Candidates** — Do not vote for candidates who will not support F.U.A. policy 11
- F. Direct Action** — Several methods advocated such as non-buying, non-delivery and non-production strikes 28
- G. Membership** — Union to be effective must have large membership 18
- H. Mass Delegations** — Organize a large mass delegation to Ottawa 17
- I. Lobbying** — Hire a full time lobbyist 6

COMMENTS — In addition to the methods listed above, there were a number of noteworthy comments which if added above would have lost their true intent.

Locals to contact M.L.A.'s and M.P.'s only on such Provincial and Federal matters as have been approved by the Board of Directors or supported by the majority on a questionnaire.

The Personnel on all delegations should be representative of the various political parties, Petitions or briefs to be drawn up by the board of directors or executive body.

Delegations to present careful drawn-up briefs, using legal advice, not a lot of resolutions.

Annual conventions to concentrate on a "Program of Action", not to deal with a lot of trivial matters.

In summarizing this report, we found much food for thought, and we suggest that anyone who will carefully analyze it will find the same.

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# Marketing Legislation

Special Article by Roy C. Marler  
President, Alberta Federation of Agriculture

No doubt many of our farm people at this time are wondering what status the marketing legislation is in as a result of the Legislature being dissolved without giving final reading to the present Bill 79.

First of all, it will be remembered that farm organizations have held many meetings throughout the Province, during the last 15 months in particular, to familiarize the farmers as far as possible with the purpose and intent of obtaining marketing legislation. This was done in consultation with the Premier of the Province and the M.L.A.'s in each representative rural constituency. At no time has the A.F.A. ever tried to play Peter against Paul politically in obtaining enabling legislation. On the contrary, we have at all times anticipated and solicited the support of all political parties, firstly because we believed that they would be interested in providing this legislation for farmers if they were sure that the majority of farmers wanted it, and secondly because so far as we know the various parties in the other provinces and in the Federal field as well have supported legislation for farmers in these other provinces, with the exception of two—Quebec and Newfoundland—in which the legislation has not been requested. This type of legislation has also been supported by the other parties in the House of Commons, namely the Canadian Wheat Board Act—the section pertaining to the coarse grains, also the marketing legislation commonly referred to as Bill 82 providing for transfer of authority by the Federal Government to provincial producer marketing boards to carry out inter-provincial and export trade.

It was the A.F.A.'s understanding, following the Session of 1954, that if the M.L.A.'s were convinced that the majority of farmers wanted marketing legislation it would be introduced in the 1955 Session. The A.F.A. never had any other idea but what the undertaking was on the basis that the legislation that would be introduced would be in accordance with what we had been requesting during the last six years, and legislation similar or at least comparable to the legislation provided by seven of the other provinces in Canada for the farmers of those provinces. Meetings were sponsored by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture in co-operation with the M.L.A.'s and Farmers' Union officials in the different rural constitu-

encies of the province in 1954, one or more meetings being held in 45 of the 47 rural constituencies. Circumstances, time and convenience did not permit meetings to be arranged in the Banff-Cochrane constituency or the Jasper-Edson constituency before it was deemed necessary to present our report to a committee of the Government consisting of the Premier, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade and Industry in November. At these meetings only two meetings, one at Hanna and the other at Warner, were against the Legislature providing enabling legislation. Including these two meetings the number voting against enabling legislation was six per cent. In the great majority of meetings there was not one single vote against the Legislature providing this legislation.

Prior to the 1955 Session the Alberta Federation of Agriculture met with the Minister of Agriculture and reviewed the marketing legislation draft act which had been presented in 1951 and 1953 to the Agricultural Committee, and with slight changes which were agreed to it was believed that this draft act was presented by the Minister to his M.L.A. colleagues, but when this Bill 79 was introduced into the 1955 Session on the 10th of March it had been changed tremendously. It had been changed to the extent that, in the opinion of the A.F.A. and our legal counsel, it was neither within the reach of the farmers nor was it workable nor consequently sound so far as giving a producer marketing board authority which would assure the successful operation of a marketing board when confronted with an obstinate or unwilling participant of the trade. Needless to say, it was not comparable to legislation in other provinces. It was not in accordance with the legislation as discussed in the many meetings that we have held throughout the scope of this province, and in the better judgement of the Board of the A.F.A. it did not offer reasonable opportunity for any producer group to consider setting up a marketing board for any product.

When the Bill was introduced and made known to the public the A.F.A., on its receiving second reading, immediately made private representation to the Minister of Agriculture, suggesting what it considered the very minimum of changes in the legislation in order that it may be acceptable to the farmer and in order that the A.F.A., on behalf of the farm organizations, could commend the Legislature for pro-

(Continued on Page 8)



# Farmers Union of Alberta

10128 - 98th Street

Edmonton, Alberta

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2113 - 29th Avenue, S.W., Calgary.

## F.W.U.A. EXECUTIVE:

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2113 - 29th Avenue, S.W., Calgary.

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## EDITORIALS

### THE F.U.A. and the Election—

In the coming Provincial Election the F.U.A. as an Organization will be strictly Neutral as between the different Political Parties asking for support. We do not sponsor candidates nor do we endorse any one Political Party.

The F.U.A. is not concerned as to what party is in power in Alberta. But we are vitally concerned with what those in power do. We are interested in getting action for Alberta farmers along lines of our program. To that end we want to see members elected in every rural constituency, (regardless of party), who know the farmers' problem and will support our policy. Just as important perhaps is to get members who will put the interests of their constituents ahead of their political party.

Probably the greatest curse in our democracy today is the party system. Men imbued with the party spirit see nothing right in other parties, and nothing wrong in their own. Under the drive of partizanship men forget their prin-

ciples and become liars, cheats, and slanderers. Those in power villify others offering themselves for election and are themselves villified in turn. This is the reason why the general public regards politics and politicians with scorn and loathing and why many good citizens will not even consider a nomination.

The F.U.A. is interested in getting results regardless of party. We have a program of our own. This program should be put before every candidate for the Legislature and he should be asked to declare where he stands on it. If he is not prepared to support the farmers' program then he would not be a safe bet to vote for. It is time for farmers to take a tough and realistic attitude in regard to our politicians. There is no sense in voting blindly for party labels or electing members who will not support farmers' interests.

Farm Union members should take a close interest in the coming election. Those who are members of the various political parties should attend nominating conventions, and see to it that candidates nominated are favorable to the farmers' program. Also that farmers are nominated if possible.

As soon as nominations take place, F.U.A.



Locals should arrange some large central meetings to which all the candidates in the constituency should be invited. This should be done in plenty of time so that no candidate can plead other arrangements as a reason for non attendance. At these meetings candidates of all parties should be given equal time to state their principles. This should be followed by a question period. Every candidate should be asked his or her stand on the F.U.A. Program. All candidates must be treated with courtesy, and no personal abuse from any source permitted.

Such meetings, if properly run, are far superior to the old-fashioned political meetings where a garbled and one-sided story is told. The public is so sick of the old kind of political meetings that practically no one attends them except the candidate and a few supporters. On the other hand a joint meeting will fill the house. The idea of having all candidates together so that all sides can be heard appeals to the public.

Most people are fair-minded. They like to get the facts. They realize that they are more likely to get facts in a joint meeting, than at a party political meeting. Then, too, people like to see how the various candidates compare when in action on an equal basis.

Any candidate who is unwilling or afraid to meet the others in a non-party joint meeting arranged by the F.U.A., would not be likely to make a reliable member.

### WHY AN ELECTION?—

The abrupt end of the Alberta Legislature will be very disappointing to Alberta farmers.

We were expecting action from the Government on the Marketing Act. Instead of that we are getting what seems to be an unnecessary election, and an indefinite delay in some of the things we are working for.

Frankly we cannot see the need for an election in 1955. The Legislature term would not expire until the fall of 1957. Elections cost money. Having an election in 3 years instead of 5, almost doubles the cost. Estimating that this election will cost \$500,000, that would be \$100,000 per year on a 5 year basis. Cutting off the last two years of the term is throwing \$200,000 down the drain.

Of course we know that there was some criticism of the Provincial Government, and in addition Mr. Prowse raised the technical question of whether members of the Legislature had disqualified themselves by dealing with the Treasury branches.

This latter charge is the reason given for calling this snap election. Is it a good reason? We would just like to point out that an election

will not settle this question. No matter what the voters do, this legal question must be fought out in the courts. Our courts are not subject to political influence. If the supreme court says that certain members are or were disqualified, then an avalanche of votes will not change that fact. This question of law should have been settled before any election was held. Premier Manning, backed by the Attorney-General, has described the legal technicality raised by Mr. Prowse as "baseless and trivial".

If that is true, and it well may be, why call an election until the facts are established by the courts? Why waste our money and work up public sentiment on an issue which votes cannot settle?

As far as the criticism of their handling of public money is concerned the Government could easily have settled this by appointing a Royal Commission to investigate and report. Since they refused to do this, they have only themselves to blame if the people are suspicious.

Any person or government entrusted with the handling of public funds and the making of policy must expect and be prepared to meet criticism at all times. Of course no one can satisfy or silence those who criticize purely for political reasons. However the Government has not strengthened itself by its intolerant attitude towards criticism of its actions. This intolerance has surely reached the limit when the Province is plunged into an unnecessary election just because the Government cannot tolerate criticism. Of course an emotional appeal to the people may be successful from a political standpoint, but it is a wrong way to meet the issue.

### HAIL SUPPRESSION

The Hail Suppression Committee of Knee Hill Municipality report that due to the shortage of time for educational work Hail Suppression may be set back for another year.

It is always rough to take a hail storm but when there is something we could have done to prevent it and didn't it is doubly so. There is no doubt in the minds of all who have the opportunity to study the record and credentials of Water Resources Development Corporation under the leadership of Dr. Irving P. Kuick, world famous scientist in meteorological work, that Hail Suppression has tremendous possibilities in this country.

Whether an organization can be developed to contract for Hail Suppression this year or not we can look forward to the time when severe hail losses are a thing of the past.



## MARKETING LEGISLATION

(Continued from Page 5)

viding such legislation. The A.F.A. was advised that the M.L.A.'s of the Government side would not agree to making any changes.

Upon receiving this information a letter was immediately delivered to the Premier's office, requesting a hearing before the Agricultural Committee prior to this Bill receiving third reading. This was done regretfully because, up until that time, the A.F.A. was confident that the introduction of the Bill indicated a willingness and a desire upon the part of the M.L.A.'s of the Government side to give the farmers the right to market their produce through a marketing board if the farmers wished to do so. There is no question in the mind of the A.F.A. but what this legislation would have been passed by the Legislature before adjournment on the evening of April 6, had this application not been placed with the Premier. However, they were fully confident that it would have been passed in its present form as introduced, and in such form the A.F.A. Board concurred that it would not be of any use to farmers.

On the adjournment of the Session on April 6 the Premier advised the A.F.A. that the Session would reconvene on May 10th, and on May 11th the Federation would be heard at ten o'clock in the morning by the Agricultural Committee which includes all members of the Legislature sitting as an Agricultural Committee. The A.F.A. submitted a brief—this brief is available to any farmer or farm group on applying to the A.F.A. office for a copy—I, as President of the Federation, in submitting the brief was sworn under oath and was before the Committee from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in submitting the brief and in being questioned. The hearing then adjourned until that afternoon at 3:00 p.m. We were advised that the Session would sit at 2:30 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes, and would then adjourn so that the Committee may continue.

In the afternoon the question by the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Prowse, was raised in the Legislature, which resulted in the dissolving of the Legislature on the following afternoon and therefore ended all proceedings. This left our Bill still standing, having received only second reading, and without any indication on the part of the Legislature as to whether our request as to the necessary changes would be granted.

There were a number of representatives of other farm groups present to make submissions. It is my understanding that Mr. Young was going to appear with a short submission endors-

ing the submission of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture. I also understand that Mr. Bert Hargrave, President of the Western Stock Growers, was appearing on behalf of a small cattle group of Walsh, Alberta, a little town east of Medicine Hat, to oppose the submission of the A.F.A. Mr. Roy Ballhorn of Wetaskiwin was representing pure bred Angus breeders. Mr. E. Cammaert of Rockyford was representing the pure bred Shorthorn breeders and the Alberta Cattle Breeders' Ass'n, a pure bred organization in the southern part of the province. Mr. L. W. Bond was representing the Alberta Hereford Association. These are small breeders, and no consideration has ever been given to including the sale of registered pure bred stock in a marketing plan for any product when sold for breeding purposes. Therefore, their opposition to the legislation requested is purely superfluous. The major opposition that is anticipated is expected to come from Dr. Burton, an economist who has spent some time at the MacDonald College in Quebec and who has recently returned to Claresholm, Alberta. Dr. Burton was to give evidence opposing the legislation as requested by the Federation.

It was of interest to note that at this hearing no members of the trade were in the Chamber. This, I assumed, meant that they were not going to directly oppose the legislation at this hearing as they had done in 1953. Of course, they showed their interest by appearing in the gallery during the hearing, and it is important to note that at the 1953 hearing the Swift Canadian Company Limited advised that they were taking a neutral position. The other companies have not so indicated, to my knowledge. It is my opinion, as a result of favorable comment made by representatives of the Western Stock Growers, that the trade perhaps very wisely have decided to funnel their thoughts through the organization and representatives of the Western Stock Growers, which probably they assume could be more effective in opposing legislation pertaining to farmers' affairs than would be their own efforts in this respect.

At time of writing I have no knowledge of what the brief of the Western Stock Growers contained. The Press apparently had copies, and I understand that the Western Stock Growers have agreed to mail copies to the M.L.A.'s. However, so far they have refused to afford me a copy of their submission, notwithstanding the fact that they have our submission. This, of course, is quite in order if it is their wish to retain their submission until presented.

Space will not allow the inclusion of the A.F.A. submission. However, it was based on a few very fundamental requests:

1. That the legislation should not dictate



to farmer groups as to who could and who could not use the legislation. The A.F.A. argued that the legislation should only provide the right and that the right should apply to all producers on the same basis, and that the decision as to whether or not a marketing board would be set up should rest with the producers producing a given product, and should not be a clause in the legislation.

2. Illustrations were given showing the almost, if not complete, impossibility of getting 51 per cent of the eligible people to vote on any issue. The A.F.A. expressed the willingness to accept a 66 per cent majority of those who would vote as being reasonable and fair. We suggested that the 51 per cent of those eligible to vote requirement was a unique and isolated voting method directed at farmers in this legislation.

3. We requested a few changes which were of legal and constitutional importance and significance, in order to clothe the marketing board with sufficient authority to direct the product to markets in the best interests of the producer.

4. We finally requested that, if the Legislature would not give us the legislation which we requested, then they give us one of the marketing acts placed on the statute books of any one of six provinces in Canada — British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. We submitted that, in being willing to accept the legislation provided for farmers in these other provinces, and by only asking for comparable legislation, we thought we were being considerate, fair and reasonable.

The present status of this legislation now is that nothing will be done until another Session is held, and the A.F.A. has no indication from the Legislature now dissolved that it would, if returned, provide the enabling legislation.

The one thing for farmers to keep in mind is that the legislation itself does not set up one marketing board for any product. It will only give the producers of a product the right to do so themselves if they so wish. No one else will do it for them. In other words, no board will be set up automatically as a result of legislation, if and when it is passed.

## US. WHEAT SITUATION

This coming July a referendum will be held among wheat farmers in the United States at which time they will have the opportunity to accept acreage allotments and marketing quotas for the 1956 crop or they may reject these restrictions. If they accept them the price of wheat

will be supported at around \$1.77 a bushel while if they reject the quotas the support price could drop to 50 % of parity or somewhere around \$1.20 a bushel.

The general feeling is that farmers will reject their marketing quotas and take a chance on the lower support price. However, it has been suggested that Ezra Benson, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, would probably fix a support level at around 65 % of parity. His object is to discourage production for storage and to encourage the feeding of wheat in many areas where this was once the practice, for example in the eastern states and on the west coast. It would also encourage greater production of higher quality wheat on which premiums are paid. Production of this wheat which is in demand is restricted at the present time on the same basis as other wheat which is being grown solely to take advantage of the price supports. Top level officials of the United States department of agriculture have intimated that they hope the price support level for the 1956 wheat crop can be fixed at 65 % of parity with an expansion in acreage from the present level of 55 million to about 62 million.

—Wheat Pool Budget, April 29, 1955.

**Note:** It is reported that the National Farmers' Union is advising all U.S. farmers to vote for the acreage restrictions and so maintain the price of wheat.

## CANADIAN TRADE FIGURES

Last year Canada had a deficit of \$427 million in its international trade. Exports of merchandise totalled \$3,925,000,000 and imports amounted to \$3,920,000,000 leaving a net surplus of \$9 million. However, other transactions such as travel, interest and dividends, freight and shipping, produced the net deficit.

Grain exports alone fell almost \$300 million below the 1953 level.

On trade with the United States, Canada had a deficit of \$818 million but realized a surplus of \$230 million on dealings with the United Kingdom.

## U.S. SUPPORT PRICES

Feed grains in the United States for the 1955 crop will average considerably lower than those now in effect on the 1954 crop. Corn prices will be about \$1.58 a bushel as compared with \$1.62 last year. Oat supports will average 61 cents per bushel as against 75c and barley supports will average 94c per bushel compared with \$1.15 last year.

# Farm Women's Union of Alberta

## F.W.U.A. HIGHLIGHTS

At the last meeting of Durness F.W.U.A. (Lloydminster) the Bulletins on Young Peoples' Work and the C.A.C. were read and the Questionnaire on Car Insurance was discussed. A report was given by Mrs. Popowich, who had recently attended a meeting held in connection with the work being done for Mental Health, and much interest was shown.

\* \* \*

The Fairview F.W.U.A. No. 201 Local had Miss B. Mitchell, District Home Economist, as a guest at their last meeting. She gave an interesting talk on drapery fabrics and also left with the ladies some recipes for supper dishes. A coming bingo party will be sponsored jointly by the F.W.U.A. and the F.U.A. Donations were made to the Red Cross and the Cancer Fund.

\* \* \*

At the April 6th meeting of the Cork F.W.U.A. No. 402 they nominated as Directors Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Savill and Mrs. Shepert, all of Cork. It is planned by this Local to hold a bingo on June 13th, and to raffle a set of dishes.

\* \* \*

As all the members of Freedom F.W.U.A. Local No. 310 were in favour of holding the District Convention in Barrhead a letter with this suggestion has been forwarded to the District No. 3 Secretary. A protest has been sent to the Dairy Pool Head Office, in Edmonton, re the poor grades and short weight on cream sent to the local creamery at Barrhead.

\* \* \*

The Borschiw F.W.U.A. No. 625 plan to divide lunch money from the meetings with the men. A discussion on the handicraft display was held and it was decided that each lady was to make an article, the items to be judged and the best ones to be sent to the convention. Each lady will donate a can of juice as a roll call for May and these will be donated to the Tofield Hospital.

\* \* \*

One Tree F.W.U.A. Local No. 1307 (Brooks) report proceeds of \$23 from bake sale to go to Community Centre. They are also making a quilt, material for which was donated by Mrs. Beasley, proceeds from sale of it to be donated to the Community Centre also. A talk on the matter of who wished to go to the District No. 13 Convention at Medicine Hat on June 10th was held and finances discussed.

Plans were made for a Handicraft Display from the Wild Rose Local No. 1108 (Carolside) to the Big Stone Conference in May. Highlights of the rally at Pollockville were given by members who attended.

\* \* \*

Plans were made by the Eclipse Local F.W.U.A. No. 904 (Lacombe) for the Women's Conference in Lacombe. This local was asked to provide the entertainment. Twenty dollars was donated to the Building Fund.

\* \* \*

Westlock F.W.U.A. Local No. 308 is busy gathering and packing good used clothing to be sent to Korea. Also getting handicraft ready for the District No. 3 Conference to be held in June.

\* \* \*

West Wind F.W.U.A. No. 1217 (Pincher Creek) is having difficulty making their boundary map. They plan to sell Building Blocks and offer the \$5.00 as a prize for lucky ticket. A very newsy letter was received from a Pen Pal in Auburn, Maine. The Horticulture Bulletin was read by Helga Bruns.

\* \* \*

Clover Bar Local No. 602 report that, at a joint session, a talk was given by Mr. McKittrick, of the Income Tax Division, which was followed by an interesting question period. Scrapbooks on Alberta and South Africa are being prepared.

\* \* \*

A committee was appointed by Spruceville F.W.U.A. Local No. 912 to help make plans for Farmers' Day. It is hoped to have a picnic and invite all farmers in the area canvassed for Round-up-Day.

\* \* \*

The April meeting of the Brooks F.W.U.A. No. 1302 was attended by 19 members and two visitors, who answered the Roll Call with "Farm Safety Suggestions." Newsflashes and Provincial letters were read and Mrs. J. Shackleton read the regular Bulletin on Farm Young People's Work.

\* \* \*

Beaverlodge F.W.U.A. Local No. 107 plan to raffle two blankets on Farmers' Day. We hope they will be very successful.

\* \* \*

The ladies of Eaglesham F.W.U.A. No. 108 joined with the men in discussing plans for a Farmers' Day picnic. They elected a new vice-



president due to the resignation of the former one. Expenses for Convention delegates are to come out of the local funds.

\* \* \*

On April 15th High Prairie F.W.U.A. No. 204 held a very successful box social and dance in High Prairie, clearing \$107.00. Pies were also auctioned and some brought in close to \$5.00 each.

\* \* \*

Lively interest was shown by all at the April meeting of the Utopia F.W.U.A. Local No. 1210. The Questionnaire was discussed and some suggestions were made regarding the new cook books. Stronger covers seemed important. A Sewing School may be held soon with Miss J. Donnelson, the District Home Economist, as instructress. Donations were made to the Junior Red Cross and to the unfortunate parents of two children lost when their home and service station were burned.

\* \* \*

After discussion on Community League Banquet, Ranfurly F.W.U.A. No. 610 decided not to hold a banquet now. After the reading of Newsflashes and Bulletin on Young Peoples' work the Treasurer read the financial report. Summer meetings are to be held at the homes of various members.

\* \* \*

Pine Hill F.W.U.A. Local No. 1013 (Red Deer) will sponsor a Home Nursing Course in October. Roll Call was answered with "A Farm Safety Suggestion." Twenty-five dollars was given to the Building Fund.

\* \* \*

The April meeting of the Red Deer F.W.U.A. Local No. 1026 discussed the matter of an amalgamation with adjoining locals but deemed it unfeasible due to distances. It was decided to ask the Local F.W.U.A. Secretary to determine whether they would jointly sponsor a picnic on Farmers' Day or thereabouts with them. Mrs. Braithwaite is to be asked to give an address on Civil Defence. Bulletins on Provincial Agricultural Schools were discussed and found very well explained.

\* \* \*

Bonanza F.W.U.A. Local No. 101 plan to hold an afternoon tea to welcome the new District Nurse to the community. A letter from Mrs. Pharis on "Flowering Shrubs" was read. Donation of \$10.00 made to Cancer Fund.

\* \* \*

Ghost Pine F.W.U.A. No. 1024 held a very interesting meeting in April. Andy Nakaska is to attend the Junior Farm Young People's Week in Edmonton. Various reports were given and bulletins read. A "Buzz Session" to discuss means of raising money was held and plans to

sell ice cream at local ball games made. A "Taste and Take" sale of food items donated by the ladies will be held at the June meeting. An Easter party was held for the children.

\* \* \*

Roll Call at the April meeting of Shady Nook F.W.U.A. No. 1014 was "A Farm Safety Suggestion." Newsflashes and letters from Head Office were read and discussed. A Bake Sale is to be held at Eaton's in Red Deer, May 19. At the end of the meeting an older member of the Local was honored on the occasion of her birthday and given a gift.

\* \* \*

The April meeting of Milo - Queenstown F.W.U.A. No. 1206 voted \$25.00 to the I.O.O.F. to help furnish the kitchen in remodelled hall basement. Bruce Henry's name was sent to the Alberta Wheat Pool as a candidate for Farm Young People's Week. A speech given by Eva Jacobsen on "What Education Means to Me" was greatly enjoyed. This speech won her the I.O.O.F. "UN Pilgrimage for Youth" public speaking contest.

\* \* \*

At the April meeting of Stony Plain F.W.U.A. No. 501, Mrs. H. Evjen gave an interesting talk on her experience in poultry raising on the farm. A discussion on "Car Insurance" was held. Reports were given on the Sewing Course attended by members of the Local at Holborn School.

\* \* \*

Conrich F.W.U.A. Local No. 1007 collected and sent 11 parcels of old clothing to Korea. Four hundred and sixty-four dollars and seventy-five cents was collected in the district for the Red Cross Drive and a knitted afghan was given to the Red Cross by the Local.

\* \* \*

Mr. Jack Atkinson showed his pictures of Great Britain's Farm Lands to the ladies of St. Albert F.W.U.A. No. 502 at their April meeting. They were much enjoyed. Roll Call—Suggestions for Farm Safety. Bulletins on Farm Young People's Work and Horticulture were read. For her work as secretary of the Local for the past two years Mrs. Jack Fuhr was presented with a cup and saucer.

## F.U.A. NEWS

Spirit River F.U.A. No. 137 are making plans to hold a picnic on June 10th at Spirit Valley. All members and their friends are invited to attend.

\* \* \*

Two Hills F.U.A. No. 669 are sponsoring a picnic on June 10th at Two Hills with a dance in the evening in the Elks Hall. All members and their friends are invited to attend.



## **F.W.U.A. President's Report**

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

These are busy days for all of us, what with meetings, gardening, housecleaning, etc., we manage to put in the days and weeks without wasting too much time.

I told you in my last report that I was attending the meetings of the Alberta Council on Child and Family Welfare each month. Now I would like to report on a successful week just concluded.

### **Child and Family Welfare Week**

During this week we have had a very busy schedule. About 1,000 children are entertained each day in the Canadian Legion Hall. A constructive and entertaining program is put on each day, this includes music, movies, ice-cream, etc.

While the youngsters are enjoying their week, we of the Council are enjoying ourselves. We have a different speaker each of the five days who bring us information on topics as follows:

Mr. Mayell, Supervisor of physical education and athletics for the Calgary School Board discussed "Physical Education in the Calgary Schools". He gave a good outline of how the periods for recreation fit in with school studies and do not conflict with community programs or intend to take the child out of the home after school hours.

Mr. Warner, Supt. of Calgary Public Schools gave an excellent talk on "Issues in Secondary Education". He dealt with the removal from the curriculum of third year French and trigonometry, and said any student who wished to take these subjects could apply and they would be taken care of, to date only 80 students had applied for these subjects in the Calgary area. He feels that the curriculum should be made up of subjects that would encourage more students to receive a general education, than to specialize for a few scholars with the others dropping out altogether. The specialized student still has the opportunity to get the necessary subjects for his credits.

Hon. Mr. Jorgenson, Minister of Public Welfare, spoke on pensions, adoptions and general social welfare problems such as we discuss in our conventions.

Mr. Cameron, Supt. of Juvenile Delinquents Branch for Alberta, spoke on the work of Bowden Institute in helping delinquent boys. The building program will be completed this summer, and the different age and offence groups

will be in their own quarters. He said the Institute was doing a satisfactory job in teaching trades and helping to rehabilitate the boys. Desertions are very few, only nine last year, all but two returned to Bowden. The boys receive religious instruction, both Protestant and Catholic services are held. Delinquent girls are fewer, and are placed in the Catholic Home of the Good Shepherd in Edmonton and the Protestant Mountview Home in Calgary, each are doing an excellent job in giving proper training to these girls, so that they can take their place as useful citizens. The girls too are taught a trade, they have the opportunity to become a nurse's aide, take a course in sewing, business, or hairdressing. Both boys and girls receive regular school education, some stay to complete their grade.

Dr. Lindsay spoke on the "Relationship of Religion and Psychiatry". It was a wonderful talk and outlined very clearly that spiritual values are a vital background from infancy through life, and does establish better behavior patterns individually and collectively. Dr. Lindsay's work in the Calgary Guidance Clinic, and D.V.A. is very highly regarded and since I was chairman at this meeting, I had the opportunity to thank him for all of his fine work.

On Friday at 2 p.m., I gave a broadcast over CFAC, Calgary on "The role of the farm women in community life". Judging from reports this was well received and enjoyed in the city as well as the country. The week concluded with a banquet. Several organizations were asked to say a few words, and I was happy to convey the good wishes of the F.W.U.A. I was glad that Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Douglas and Mrs. Lowe were able to attend some of the meetings, and were also at the banquet along with Mrs. Taylor.

### **Committee on Seasonal Unemployment**

Two of these meetings have taken place in Calgary. Representatives from 21 organizations and nine members of the employment committee are endeavoring to find some solution to the problem of seasonal unemployment. We are working on the agricultural side of the problem while others represent industry and labor and other view points. These meetings are very interesting and have provided the groundwork to further study and at our next meeting we hope to work out a five point program in more detail so that we can make it workable.

### **District Conventions**

It is my intention to attend all the district conventions. I am looking forward to seeing a good attendance and nice weather all along the way.



**STAMPEDE QUEEN**

Miss Mary Ellen Jones, of Ponoka, will represent us in the Miss Calgary Stampede Queen Contest for 1955.

Miss Jones is interested in saddle horses, sewing, music and all community projects. She is a member of the Fertile Forst Jr. F.U.A. and has been active for the last three years.

**ALBERTA CO-OP UNION WORKSHOPS**

The Alberta Co-op Union in conjunction with the University of Alberta will hold workshops as follows:

Vermilion — June 13th and 14th.

Wetaskiwin — June 16th and 17th.

Registration fee for the two days is \$2.00. Matters covered in the workshops will be duties and responsibilities of Directors, Education of Young People, The Place of the Co-op in the Community, Public Relations, etc.

These schools can be of real help to any community organization, including F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. Locals.

**DISTRICT 5 SUB-DISTRICT CONVENTIONS**

Sub-district 1 — Kelley's Hall, Stony Plain, on June 14th at 1:30 p.m.

Sub-district 2 — Library, Morinville, on June 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Sub-district 3 — Legion Hall, Mayerthorpe, on June 13th at 1:30 p.m.

Sub-district 4 — Tomahawk, on June 8th at 1:30 p.m.

Sub-district 5 — Community Hall, Wildwood, on June 7th at 1:30 p.m.

Sub-district 6 — Community Hall, Carrot

Creek, on June 6th at 1:30 p.m.

Speakers will be Charles Seeley, F.U.A. Director; Mrs. Olive Harrold, F.W.U.A. Director and your sub-director. Locals are urged to have as many of their members attend as possible. Visitors are welcome.

**SASKATCHEWAN GOLDEN JUBILEE EXCURSION TO CHURCHILL, 1955**

The Saskatchewan Provincial Government have completed arrangements with the Canadian National Railways to sponsor the operation of their ninth annual Churchill Excursion. Special train and cars will leave Regina and Saskatoon on the evening of July 27th and arrive back at those cities on August 1st.

All inclusive rates are in effect. For example the rate from Saskatoon and return is as low as \$90.00. This rate includes railfare, sleeper, sleeper at stopover points (over 34 hours at Churchill), meals and entertainment which makes for an economical vacation.

The schedule of the excursion is set up to coincide with the arrival of the first boat in the Port and the excursionists will see the loading and operation of the large ocean freighter.

Full information may be secured from Mr. T. S. Webster, City Passenger Agent, Canadian National Railways, Edmonton.

**NET FARM INCOME**

The net income of Canadian farmers from their farm operations in 1954 has now been estimated at \$1,125,600,000, the lowest of any year since 1946, reports the bureau of statistics. This revised figure is 33 per cent below that of 1953 and 48 per cent below the record net of \$2,154,650,000 in 1951. It is 30 per cent below the postwar average.

A 19 per cent drop in gross farm income accompanied by a decline of only 2 per cent in farm operating expenses and depreciation charges caused the big drop.

Farmers in the prairie provinces were hardest hit as net income dropped from \$838.8 million in 1953 to only \$377.8 million.

Net income by provinces in 1954 with comparisons for 1953 was as follows.

|                   | 1954         | 1953         |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Prince Edward Is. | \$12,800,000 | \$12,900,000 |
| Nova Scotia       | 19,900,000   | 21,500,000   |
| New Brunswick     | 29,500,000   | 28,700,000   |
| Quebec            | 270,800,000  | 275,100,000  |
| Ontario           | 381,100,000  | 434,100,000  |
| Manitoba          | 72,500,000   | 115,400,000  |
| Saskatchewan      | 128,300,000  | 467,600,000  |
| Alberta           | 177,000,000  | 300,800,000  |
| British Columbia  | 35,500,000   | 43,500,000   |

Wheat Pool Budget, May 13, 1955



## **F.U.A. Broadcasts**

### **F.U.A. RADIO BROADCAST No. 3**

Last week I mentioned a number of things on which we have got action from the Provincial Government just recently. Here is another instance which has just come out. Last year the Municipal District of Stony Plain proceeded to make a new assessment of all farm land in the Municipal District. In doing so their assessors proceeded to put a fantastic valuation upon the parcels of land leased by Oil Companies from farmers for oil well and battery sites etc. These plots of land were valued at about \$170.00 per acre. This of course raised the valuation of a quarter section very considerably.

The local farmers took action to stop this and the F.U.A. took a strong stand with the Provincial Cabinet on the question. We pointed out the necessity of action to stop this injustice, which would upset the basis of every settlement made by the Board of Arbitration. As a result the Government has made amendments to the Assessment Act. These amendments forbid the valuation of any such leased parcels at a rate higher than the adjoining farm land. For this fortunate outcome, credit is due to the local farmers of the affected area, to the F.U.A., and also to the Government. It is another case where organization has paid off for farmers.

However we have lots of work to do yet in connection with Provincial matters. The marketing act has been left over till the Legislature meets again on May 10th. Presumably it will come up for third reading then. The bill as it stands is not by any means satisfactory to us. We feel that the enabling legislation should apply to all livestock if and when the producers of the various farm products want to use it.

Then too that provision which requires a 51% majority of all those entitled to vote on any specific marketing plan is definitely unsatisfactory. Under this provision all those failing to vote are counted against the plan. This means that a bad storm on voting day would be sure to defeat any plan.

This bill will of course be subject to amendment when it comes up for further consideration on May 10th. I would suggest that all those who agree with us on this question should contact their M.L.A. before that time and urge that the act be amended. Locals which meet in the near future can send resolutions to their M.L.A. If sufficient interest is shown on our side the bill will likely be amended. The opponents of Producer Marketing are active and appear to have plenty of money. It is up to those who believe in it to get busy.

Speaking of further Provincial Legislation which we want, the next on our list is a Provin-

cial Plan of Car Insurance at cost. We believe that every car and truck in Alberta should be covered by Public Liability and Property damage insurance also personal accident insurance adequate to protect the public against loss. We believe that such insurance is a must in this modern age. The Province can provide this insurance cheaper than the private companies with their huge overhead costs. A policy covering this insurance should be issued with each car and truck license. In our plan, this third Party Insurance as it is called must be compulsory.

As for fire and theft and collision insurance, we suggest that that remain on a voluntary basis. If a motorist wants to carry his own risk, on his own car, that is up to him. But the other coverages are necessary for the protection of the public. We should have them at cost, as a necessary public service.

To get this improved system of Car Insurance we shall have to go to bat for it. Already some of those who make their living in the insurance game are issuing wild statements to try and scare people from the idea of a better plan. Naturally their profits are threatened and they are trying to protect them. People who know their stuff will not be fooled by the self-interested pleas of insurance agents and their stooges.

Interest in the idea of a Provincial Car Insurance plan is rising. Only last week the big Labor Convention at Lethbridge passed a resolution along the same lines as ours. Both the main Labor bodies in Alberta are prepared to co-operate with us on this Car Insurance question. If our 61,000 members across Alberta get behind the demand for Provincial Car Insurance at cost, we will have it in time for the 1956 season. Let's go after it.

Next week I will deal with some other matters on which we want action.

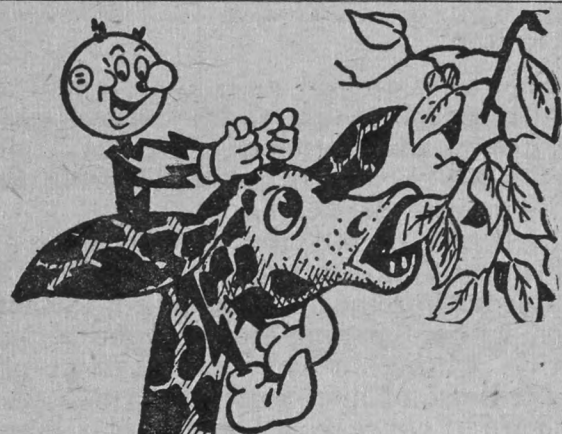
### **F.U.A. RADIO BROADCAST No. 4**

In this broadcast I shall deal with the need for further work on other F.U.A. projects. The first of these is a plan to assist in the building of rural telephone lines.

In our opinion the Alberta Government should set up a plan of advances to groups of farmers for the building of rural telephone lines. The need for this is shown by the fact that only about 25,000 farms in Alberta have telephones. Just think of it! After the 50 years of progress, which we hear so much of, in this Jubilee year, less than one third of our farms have telephones. Surely with our farmers shorthanded as they are today, a telephone is more needed than ever. There is also the safety angle to consider. When

(Continued on Page 21)





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Yes, folks, while the cost of everything else has been going UP, the cost of electricity has been going DOWN. What else in your family budget gives you so much for so little money?

\*The average price per kilowatt hour paid for electric service for farm use today, too, is less than 50 % of what the average price paid by farm customers was in 1939.



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## Open Forum

Letters for publication in the Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the name of the sender must accompany the letter. The Editor reserves the right to condense any letter to conform to space limitations. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

Dear Editor:

In your March issue, I note an article by Mr. Louis Normandeau, 10180 - 107th Street, Edmonton, Alberta. Mr. Normandeau apparently is worrying about the coming plight of our Prairie farmers within the next ten years, and is seeking advice regarding the same. About all that I could do, would be to refer Mr. Normandeau to the methods used by the agriculturists of Sweden and their unionized and highly mechanized methods. Mr. Normandeau can get much of these methods from a copy of the Family Herald and Weekly Star, April issue 1955. Sweden is rated as the most highly unionized and mechanized progressive agricultural country in the world. Their mechanization and prosperity is second to none. The southern part of Sweden is prairie similar to that of our western prairies. Except that it has no seasonal unemployment. Their unions are composed of their employers and employees. They are free from strikes. All disputes are settled through round table conferences. The employees work an eight hour day and have two to three weeks holidays with pay and fringe benefits each year. The employee can make up to about two thousand dollars a year. He is also able to have his own cottage with all modern conveniences such as are found in the cities and at a rental of eight dollars per month. They also have a highly trained supervisor, at a higher scale of wages whose duty it is to direct the work. Those highly unionized agriculturists are always ready to extend a helping hand to industrialists wishing to settle in Sweden. While at the same time Sweden is practically a free trading nation. While the world is in the melting pot at the present time, and most nations becoming more progressive in their efforts to become modern, it would be a wild gesture to attempt to rate the Canadian economy for the next ten or more years. The fate of the prairie farmers will depend greatly on their determination to forge ahead.

Bill Carson,  
Turner Valley, Alberta.

## Presidential Timber

Dear Editor:

At our next annual convention it will be the duty of the delegates to choose a new President to head our, now majority, Farmers' Union of Alberta. We should all be considering such a man, he may be our neighbor.

As all must admit, it will take quite a man to fill Henry Young's shoes.

First and foremost he **must** be a farmer and it goes without saying he must be a man of integrity, willing to sacrifice his own private aims for those of his fellow farmers.

A man of courage, a leader, yet a man who can set aside his own opinions and desires in favour of the expressed desires of a majority of those whom he leads. Who can meet with the powers that be, with aplomb and confidence as a diplomat should. A man who is wealthy enough or poor enough to delegate his own affairs to others for one year or maybe five. No autocrat, but a man with modesty of soul, who can yet command respect from those with whom he works.

If such a man is a farmer and not a multi-millionaire see to it that he is a delegate to our next annual convention and see that his name is put before the delegates.

Yes! he may be your neighbor. If he is, we want him for President.

Wm. L. Pearce,  
Whitelaw, Alberta.

## CANADIAN BUSINESS

The value of all goods and services produced in 1954 in Canada amounted to \$23,985,000,000, a reduction of \$431 million from the 1953 peak.

Labor income in 1954 rose about 2% to a record \$11,900,000,000.

Net farm income sagged badly and amounted to only \$1,114,000,000. This is down \$535 million below 1953 and is little more than half of the record \$2,072,000,000 in 1951.

Investment income dropped 2% to \$3,709,000,000. Corporation profits were also down, amounting to \$1,246,000,000.

Consumer spending in Canada in 1954, however, was up 3%, reaching a record \$15,581,000,000

—Wheat Pool Budget, April 15, 1955

## CLOTHING DONATIONS FOR RED CROSS

The Red Cross would welcome donations of good used clothing from Locals in Northern Alberta. These should be delivered to Red Cross House, which is directly opposite the site of the new F.U.A. headquarters in Edmonton.



## Junior F. U. A. News and Views

### JR. F.U.A. DELEGATES TO ONTARIO

Paul Calon, of Michichi, and Della Christopherson, of Wainwright, are the two Jr. F.U.A. delegates to Ontario. The following are excerpts from a letter received from Della.

**May 1**—We reached Toronto at 2:15 yesterday after a lovely train ride. I'm staying at the Stewarts at a little place called Primrose. They have been wonderful to me. They have a beef farm. Myrtle, President of the Ontario Juniors and her sister Ruth and Jimmy White met us in Guelph and took us home.

While in Toronto, Paul and I took a ride on the one and only Canadian Subway. It really speeds along.

**May 3**—I'm sitting at a window in the Brock Hotel in Niagara looking out at the Falls. They are beautiful. The American Falls are directly across the street from the hotel. The roar of the Falls is quite loud and sounds like a storm coming up with a high wind.

Don Middleton, past president of the Ontario

Junior Farmers and Myrtle Stewart, new president, are taking us all over by car and Niagara is the first stop. They were the two delegates who were out at our Farm Young People's Week last June.

On Sunday we came to Guelph where we registered for the conference. As soon as we arrived Paul and I were interviewed by three television stations. One from London and the others from Buffalo. We were on a 7 p.m. program on Monday. Then the Globe and Mail and the Toronto Daily Star took pictures and got our story. A Miss Betty Boyle from the Young Farmers News also took pictures and got a story for the Junior paper down here.

At 7:30 p.m. there was a non-denominational church service in the War Memorial Hall on the Ontario College Campus. After the service there was a "fireside" meeting with a sing-song. We were then interviewed for 10 or 15 minutes. Don and Myrtle asked us questions

(Continued on Page 19)

## FIRE AND AUTO INSURANCE

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## MEMBERSHIP RECORD APRIL, 1955

|             | April<br>Men | Men<br>to date | April<br>Women | Women<br>to date | April<br>Assoc. | Assoc.<br>to date | April<br>Juniors | Juniors<br>to date | April<br>total | to date<br>Total |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| B.C. Block  | 4            | 508            | 2              | 180              | ---             | ---               | -1               | 124                | 5              | 812              |
| District 1  | 15           | 2,083          | 6              | 790              | ---             | ---               | 1                | 442                | 22             | 3,315            |
| District 2  | 14           | 2,658          | 2              | 982              | ---             | ---               | 1                | 652                | 17             | 4,292            |
| District 3  | 39           | 2,613          | 4              | 909              | ---             | 2                 | -3               | 660                | 40             | 4,184            |
| District 4  | 11           | 3,504          | -1             | 1,367            | ---             | ---               | ---              | 1,094              | 10             | 5,965            |
| District 5  | 27           | 2,765          | 16             | 989              | ---             | ---               | 20               | 705                | 63             | 4,459            |
| District 6  | 26           | 4,517          | 14             | 2,144            | ---             | 7                 | 14               | 1,382              | 54             | 8,052            |
| District 7  | 10           | 3,704          | 6              | 1,319            | ---             | 1                 | 8                | 781                | 24             | 5,805            |
| District 8  | 12           | 2,945          | 5              | 1,036            | ---             | 2                 | 4                | 540                | 21             | 4,523            |
| District 9  | 23           | 3,505          | 9              | 1,165            | 2               | 3                 | 3                | 703                | 37             | 5,376            |
| District 10 | 14           | 3,632          | 7              | 905              | ---             | 12                | 8                | 428                | 29             | 4,977            |
| District 11 | -9           | 1,625          | -12            | 629              | 2               | 8                 | -10              | 250                | -29            | 2,512            |
| District 12 | 19           | 2,332          | 8              | 1,030            | ---             | 8                 | 3                | 380                | 30             | 3,750            |
| District 13 | 62           | 870            | 25             | 321              | ---             | 1                 | 12               | 151                | 99             | 1,343            |
| District 14 | 132          | 1,467          | 45             | 593              | 1               | 1                 | 29               | 350                | 207            | 2,411            |
| TOTALS      | 399          | 38,728         | 136            | 14,361           | 5               | 45                | 89               | 8,642              | 629            | 61,776           |

## BUILDING FUND DONATIONS

|                           |             |                                         |        |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| Previously acknowledged   | \$34,055.24 | John Hutt (Leaman)                      | 2.00   |
| Vegreville F.U.A. No. 690 | 15.00       | Bricks sold Irma Meeting                | 20.00  |
| Rio Grande F.U.A. No. 132 | 17.75       | Amish Hughenden F.U.A. No. 702          | 22.00  |
| Fleet F.W.U.A. No. 1104   | 15.25       | Parkside F.U.A. No. 794                 | 22.00  |
| Bill Guglick              | 2.00        | Rosyth F.U.A. No. 750                   | 22.00  |
| Harry Guglick             | 2.00        | Foreman and Riders Spruce Coulee        |        |
| John Klym                 | 1.00        | F.U.A. No. 837                          | 17.00  |
| Peter Skulsky             | 1.00        | Barrhead F.U.A. No. 304                 | 140.00 |
| Mike N. Kitt              | 1.00        | Bricks sold Chornohora Meeting          | 16.00  |
| Mike Myshuniuk            | 1.00        | Paradise Valley F.U.A. No. 741          | 35.00  |
| Nick Skorecko             | 1.00        | Hills F.U.A. No. 1132                   | 9.00   |
| Peter N. Kitt             | 1.00        | Rich Valley F.U.A. No. 530              | 20.00  |
| Peter Grabas              | 1.00        | Crown F.W.U.A. No. 919                  | 25.00  |
| Dick Saik                 | 1.00        | Clare F.U.A. No. 786                    | 30.00  |
| Mike W. Charuk            | 1.00        | Beauvallon F.U.A. No. 740               | 20.00  |
| Chernesky, Steve          | 1.00        | "Bricks" Eastburg F.U.A. No. 315        | 17.00  |
| Mike Pascika              | 1.00        | South Edmonton F.U.A. No. 609           | 3.00   |
| L. Beaudette              | 1.00        | Colchester Ladies' Friendly Circle      | 3.00   |
| Joe Leskow                | 1.00        | Briar Ridge No. 3 B.C. Blk.             | 50.00  |
| Alex Horn                 | 1.00        | Sub. Dist. 6—Dist. 4                    | 20.00  |
| Eugene Kasawal            | 1.00        | Crossfield F.W.U.A. No. 1008            | 25.00  |
| Wm. Klebanowsky           | 1.00        | Round Hill F.U.A. No. 867               | 25.00  |
| Nick Klebanowsky          | 1.00        | Willingdon F.U.A. No. 678               | 39.94  |
| Nick Danyluk              | 1.00        | Mrs. G. E. Dickson (Willingdon)         | 2.00   |
| F. E. Hubbard             | 1.00        | Elk Point F.U.A. No. 423                | 60.00  |
| Paul Stec                 | 1.00        | "Bricks" Utopia F.W.U.A. No. 1210       | 1.00   |
| M. Olenick                | 1.00        | "Bricks" Sedalia F.W.U.A. No. 1110      | 1.00   |
| Joe Bortnick              | 1.00        | L. Garth and S. Johnson                 | 3.00   |
| Harry Horn                | .75         | T. D. Smith                             | 2.75   |
| Frank Yakimovich          | .50         | Joe Mudra and W. D. Lea                 | 1.60   |
| Joe Kitt                  | .50         | Bay Tree F.U.A. No. 103                 | 15.00  |
| Alex Matwe                | .50         | Bay Tree F.W.U.A. No. 106               | 20.00  |
| Mike Babysh               | .50         | "Bricks" Blk. Diamond F.W.U.A. No. 1214 | 20.00  |
| Peter Zwarak              | .50         | "Bricks" Rainier No. 1306               | 40.00  |
| J. P. Kozak               | .50         | Irvine F.W.U.A. No. 1309                | 25.00  |
| H. S. Bushko              | .50         | Rose Briar F.U.A. No. 990               | 11.20  |
| Ed. Yakimovich            | .50         | White Earth F.U.A. No. 462              | 20.00  |
| P. Myshuniuk              | .50         | "Bricks" Newbrook F.U.A. No. 469        | 9.00   |
| S. Yakimovich             | .50         | Pine Hill F.W.U.A. No. 1013             | 25.00  |
| John Wasulciw             | .50         | Gwynne F.W.U.A. No. 918                 | 2.55   |
| Steve Pichach             | .50         | East Bittern Lake F.U.A. No. 809        | 15.00  |
| A. Palsat                 | .50         | "Bricks" Girouxville F.U.A. No. 214     | 22.00  |
| Peter M. Samoil           | .50         | Willingdon East F.W.U.A. No. 617        | 50.00  |
| Steve Sydora              | .50         | Spirit River F.U.A. No. 137             | 13.40  |
| Alex Stec                 | .50         | Central School No. 4 B.C. Block         | 15.00  |
| Stanley Lozowicz          | .50         | "Bricks" Dolcy Browning F.U.A. No. 719  | 20.00  |
| B. D. Samoil              | .25         | Rosalind F.W.U.A. No. 805               | 20.00  |
| Mike Pichach              | .25         |                                         |        |



|                                                                                                                                             |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Lindale F.U.A. No. 949                                                                                                                      | 45.50  |
| "Bricks" Ispas F.U.A. No. 628                                                                                                               | 16.00  |
| "Bricks" Calmar Meeting                                                                                                                     | 12.00  |
| "Bricks" Hotchkiss Notikewin F.U.A.<br>No. 227                                                                                              | 9.00   |
| C. W. Carleton, R.R. No. 5 Edmonton                                                                                                         | 5.00   |
| Sub-Dist. 3—Dist 9                                                                                                                          | 358.12 |
| Foreman and Riders Clandonald<br>F.U.A. No. 777                                                                                             | 13.00  |
| Spruce View F.U.A. No. 1055                                                                                                                 | 100.00 |
| Riders Sunniebend F.W.U.A. No. 307,<br>Mrs. F. W. Adair, Mrs. L. Plain,<br>Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Wortman,<br>Mrs. D. Plain and Mrs. W. E. Smart | 5.50   |
| Blackfoot F.U.A. No. 706                                                                                                                    | 30.00  |
| "Bricks" Rolly View Meeting                                                                                                                 | 8.00   |
| Prospect Valley F.U.A. No. 744                                                                                                              | 25.00  |
| "Bricks" Mrs. Alice Young (Millet)                                                                                                          | 25.00  |
| Grandmeadow F.W.U.A. No. 905                                                                                                                | 10.00  |
| "Bricks" Antross F.U.A. No. 907                                                                                                             | 8.00   |
| Hoadley F.U.A. No. 968                                                                                                                      | 6.40   |
| Bon Accord F.U.A. No. 656                                                                                                                   | 50.00  |

\$35,862.95

|                                                                                                |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| N.B.: Previously acknowledged under Longridge No. 828,<br>Myroslaw No. 605A and Holden No. 822 | \$19.85 |
| Should be:                                                                                     |         |
| Longridge F.U.A. No. 828                                                                       | 14.00   |
| Longridge No. 828, Myroslaw No. 605A and<br>Holden No. 822                                     | 5.85    |

### JUNIOR F.U.A. (Continued)

about Alberta and the difference we found in Ontario. There are four delegates from Scotland here too, two girls and two boys. Their names are Mary Martin, Helen Neilson, Scot Watson and Robert Leslie. They were introduced and interviewed the same as Paul and I were.

I have learned a lot about Scotland, not only from the kids from there but quite a number of Ontario kids have been on exchange visits over there, four each year for quite a few years; as well as several Nuffield Scholarship winners. Orrin Hart was a Nuffield Scholar from Alberta sometime ago and many still remember him down here.

Every time we turned around there was some reporter taking pictures and asking questions. The Guelph radio station took tape recordings and some live broadcasts of Paul and the Scottish girls.

On Monday the conference began at 9 a.m., much the same as our conventions. They have more panel discussion than we do and no resolutions which helps considerably. In the evening the two winning debating teams from all the counties held a debate to decide the winner. All the young people down here seem to be able to speak very fluently in impromptu speeches or in planned debates.

We drove out to the Provincial Reformatory which is just outside the city. The grounds are beautifully kept. We drove around and saw about 20 men mowing huge lawns with lawn mowers (all hand power). Horses seemed to be used exclusively at this jail. We saw through the

sheep barns at the Agricultural college. Yesterday all the girls went through the MacDonald Institute which is something like the Household Economics Department at the University of Alberta. Everything is really modern in the whole place. Very lovely inside and the old stone work construction on the exterior adds to the charm of the college campus.

At 12:30 today Paul and I were interviewed over the C.B.C. National Farm Broadcast.

We went through the Guelph Veterinary College. We saw surgery being performed on a cow and also a pig. We also looked through their infirmary.

We started for Niagara Falls about 4 p.m. We stopped at Hamilton to see the Royal Botanical Gardens or Rock Gardens. All the tulips are in bloom and they are beautiful, every color of the rainbow. From Hamilton we took the Queen Elizabeth Highway across the Hamilton Bay causeway to come down the Niagara Peninsula to Niagara Falls. We saw Steelco near Hamilton which is a great steel factory. This heavy industry causes all of Hamilton to be in a perpetuay smog, which makes everything look very grimy.

All the fruit trees are coming out in bloom down along Lake Ontario and indeed all over the peninsula. The peach trees have light pink blossoms and mixed with white blossoms of apples, pears, plums and cherries, it creates a beautiful picture. Everything is very green and their crops have been planted for over a month.

I fell asleep tonight listening to the Niagara Falls. It is just too wonderful for words to think I'm actually here. —Della Christopherson

### JUNIOR FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

## FRIENDSHIP DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1955

Place—Elk Island Park

Registration will start at 12:30 p.m.

Program—A short meeting, sports, ball games in the afternoon and dancing in the evening at the Pavillion.

### POT LUCK SUPPER

Registration Fee—A fee of 25c will be charged to help defray expenses.

Mr. Sanford, F.U.A. Director for District 6, will attend.

All Junior F.U.A. members and friends are welcome to come and bring your friends.

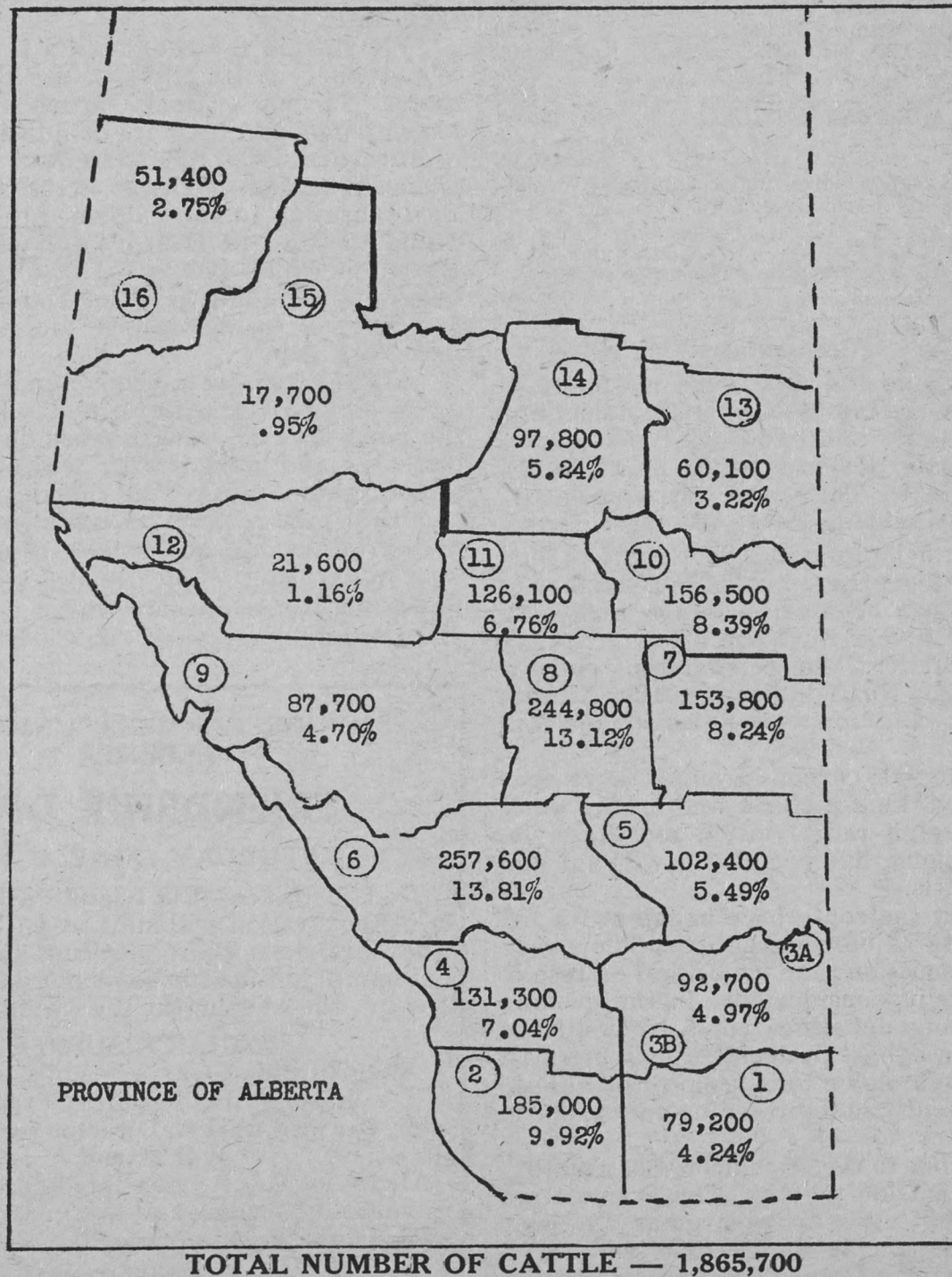
Elk Island Park on Saturday, June 4, 1955

JR. F.U.A. FRIENDSHIP DAY

## ALBERTA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

### CATTLE SURVEY, DECEMBER 1, 1954 NUMBER OF CATTLE BY CROP DISTRICT

As at May 11, 1955 the Alberta Federation of Agriculture executive is appearing before the Agricultural Committee of the Provincial Legislature requesting changes in Bill 79 for marketing legislation in line with what the farm organizations have requested, comparable to legislation given to farmers of other provinces in Canada, and in fact the Alberta Federation of Agriculture has offered to accept — if their requests are not acceptable — either one of six Acts provided farmers in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island.





**FARM BROADCASTS (Continued)**

accidents occur, as they too often do, the telephone is so essential for calling help.

Our Alberta Government telephone system is one of the best in Canada. It has lines reaching all parts of the Province, but the Government does not build rural lines and we are not asking them to do so. We are asking that money be advanced to groups of farmers who will get together to build their own rural lines. This could be repaid over a ten or fifteen year period.

Our Government today is providing many millions of dollars for the building of rural power lines. This is done to help the farmers get power, but it also helps the Power Companies evade their responsibility for power lines. Why not some money for rural telephone lines? These lines are cheap compared with power lines, but a considerable sum of cash money is required to finance the cost of wire, poles, telephone instruments, etc. A plan to finance this is needed. The best proof of this lies in the fact that today after 50 years less than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of our farms have phones. It is certainly time for action on rural telephones.

My next point is something still more important. In spite of Alberta's abounding resources and the big cash reserves we hear so much of, there is no plan to assist our young people to get started farming. Consequently our young men flock to the cities where they can (they think) get a start more easily.

Statistics show that 40,000 people left Alberta farms between 1941 and 1951. That tendency is still continuing. Of course part of that movement was natural, as we do not need nearly so many people on the land nowadays, owing to the mechanization of agriculture, but the fact remains that there are too large a percentage of old men operating farms. In many cases they carry on because they cannot let go. We need a plan something along the lines of the V.L.A., by which young men with farming experience can get a farm of their own.

To get a start on a good farm today requires a large capital investment. Fifty years ago a man could get a good start on a half section of homestead land with \$600.00. Today to buy and equip a good half section will cost over \$30,000. How can a young man hope to save enough to get started on his own unless there is a plan to assist him? Obviously he will be too old before he can save enough at a city job. In our cities and towns today there are hundreds, yes perhaps thousands of young men with farm experience; men who left the land and would like to get back to it if they only could.

Alberta needs more young people on the farm. We advocate the setting up by the Alberta Government of a revolving fund to buy

improved farms and resell them to qualified young men who want to establish themselves on the land. There should be a provision for a down payment of perhaps 10%, with the balance payable over 25 or 30 years and about 2% interest.

If the Federal Government could be induced to participate in this plan, the facilities of the V.L.A. could be used instead of setting up a special department to handle it in Alberta. In that case it would be open to other provinces, which would be all to the good.

In any case something should be done about it here and now. In our own Province of Alberta, and in our Jubilee year, would be a grand time to start.

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**F.U.A. RADIO BROADCAST No. 5**

A meeting of the Interprovincial Council of the Farm Unions was held in Winnipeg recently. Representatives were present from the three Prairie Provinces and Ontario.

Arrangements were made for the next Interprovincial Conference in Saskatoon on July 11th and 12th. This will be a get-together of farmers from these provinces to discuss mutual problems. Some outstanding speakers will be present. Following the conference it is planned to have a joint meeting of the Provincial Boards of the Farm Unions on July 13th.

While in Winnipeg on April 18th we conferred with the Canadian Wheat Board and also with the Board of Grain Commissioners. Our purpose there was to get information and also to present the viewpoint of the farm Unions to these boards. These meetings were very informative to us and I think our presentations were appreciated by the board members.

Our Ontario Union has been complaining about the quality of the feed screening shipped down east from the Lakehead. This concerns us, as it has been used by feed dealers to pollute our feed grain shipped east. This in turn has aroused resentment among Ontario farmers and feeders who buy our grain. It was interesting to note that the Board of Grain Commissioners has recently taken our advice and is now insisting on higher quality in feed screenings for the Eastern Market. This is a definite score for the Farm Unions and will help our market in the eastern provinces where we at times have to meet keen competition from Argentine corn, etc.

Meetings with these boards are valuable to both parties. We get important information to bring back, and on the other hand the boards get opinions direct from the man on the land which helps them do their job. We go there, not just to complain, but to present the farm viewpoint as we gather it. We get answers to



many of the points that we raise and the whole effect is good.

One thing that emerged from our discussion with the Wheat Board is that the basic quota of so much per family is in danger. It is a good principle, but it is hard to administer. The fact that there were 35,000 applications last year for extra permits, seem to indicate that some people are trying to secure undue advantage of their neighbors. Some of these applications were perfectly fair and right, but they could not all be.

At the Council meeting arrangements were made to present a brief to the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons when it meets at Ottawa, the latter part of May. This Committee is composed of members of all political parties in the House. Our brief will deal with the need for parity for Agriculture, the need for amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act and matters connected with grain handling, etc.

Your President has been delegated to prepare and present this brief and will be supported by the heads of the other farm Unions.

Our Farm Union Chairman, Mr. Schulz, is now in Ottawa on public relations work. Later he will make a presentation to the new Royal Commission on Coasting Trade. This body is enquiring into matters of water transportation both east and west. It has special importance on account of the development of the St. Lawrence Deep Waterway. Farmers interests are concerned here. Already some Canadian Shipping Companies want to shut out the competition from other ships coming into the Great Lakes when the new waterway is opened. If they can work it their way, the benefit of the cheaper transportation will go to the shipping interests and not to us. We must head this off.

All these things illustrate the far-flung nature of the things which affect farmers. It is one more proof of the need for a strong and well financed organization on the job all the time, and with direct control from the grassroots. We have a billion-dollar occupation and we have been trying to protect it with a hundred-dollar organization. It's time to raise our sights.

Now just a word on a Provincial matter. We have recently learned that the legislation giving farmers control over trespassers on farm property has been held up. Powerful influences seem to be working against it, and unless the farmers take a hand, it may be delayed for another year. We are doing our best, and we suggest that all locals and farmers concerned about having control over their own property should contact their M.L.A. before the session starts on May 10th. If you want to ensure action on this in 1955 get busy on it at once.

### F.U.A. BROADCAST No. 6

When the Farm Union delegation meets the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons this month, one of the important subjects discussed will be crop insurance. The experience of farmers during 1954 has certainly shown the need for much more complete protection than is given by the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.

It should be recognized that the P.F.A.A., even as it is, has done a lot of good to western farmers at a small cost to them. In Alberta during the past winter, over 26,000 farmers have received payments under the act. However there are many other farmers who suffered the same crop losses who have not been paid because of the peculiar regulations of the P.F.A.A. This act, of course, was designed in the first place to cover drought losses only, and the system of townships or blocks required, is suited to drought damage. When it comes to covering damage from hail or flood, the present P.F.A.A. regulations cause all kinds of dissatisfaction and injustice. You could write a book on all the cases of hardship and unfairness which have been brought to us at the Farm Union office since last fall. This is not in any way the fault of the officials of the P.F.A.A. office for Alberta. They are doing everything they can to be absolutely fair to the farmer, but they have to follow the regulations no matter who is hurt.

Our policy calls for the extension of the P.F.A.A. into a more complete crop insurance plan. First of all, we would reduce the size of the damage area required in order to qualify for payments. Some people would like to put this on the basis of the individual farm. The drawback to this is that the most inefficient farmers would cash in almost every year. It has been suggested that an area of six sections might be more practical. Then the benefits should be raised to at least \$5.00 per cultivated acre, or perhaps \$8.00 or \$10.00 per seeded acre for total loss. The maximum payments of \$500.00 per farm must also be raised. In checking the yield, wheat alone should not be used in the districts where coarse grains are the main crop. Crop insurance should cover all kinds of crop damage including hail. Under this plan a separate hail insurance scheme might not be needed, as the larger payments would give sufficient protection.

A plan of crop insurance along these lines would of course, take a lot of money to finance it. These Prairie Provinces, are on the average, a very productive area. However it is a high risk area. Farmers here are exposed to every kind of weather hazard and plant disease.

Continued on Page 25



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EDMONTON, ALBERTA

## Memorandum to Government Members of The Alberta Legislature Presented and Discussed At Meeting May 9th, 1955

We of the Executive of the Farmers' Union of Alberta are very glad to meet you here tonight. Our purpose in calling this meeting is to get better acquainted with you so that mutual understanding and co-operation may be promoted.

We are inclined to feel that a meeting of this kind is long overdue. We have from year to year been presenting our views to the Alberta Cabinet. In many cases the private members of the Legislature learned of our representations only indirectly if at all. Actually the position of the private members and especially the Government members is very important. We intend to give full recognition to that fact in future.

We of the F.U.A. represent some 62,000 Alberta farm people. Our membership covers some 42,000 active farm units, which we estimate is well over 50 per cent of the actual farms in Alberta. Our membership is demanding early action on various matters contained in our program and resolutions. All of these have already been submitted to you so that you all know what they comprise.

It is not our intention here tonight to attempt to cover all these matters. That would be quite impractical at any one meeting of this kind. However we would like to discuss with you, as time may permit, a few matters on which we feel it is important to get action in the near future. We wish to carry on this discussion in the most amicable way and with due regard to the opinions of all concerned. If plain speaking on some subjects is necessary it will, we hope, be entirely without offence.

First of all we wish to congratulate you on the progress made at the recent session. The new School Grant System under which the Province assumes about 50 per cent of the cost of education, will be greatly appreciated. The Amendments to the Assessment Act which will prevent special assessment of oil well sites, will prevent injustice to land owners in oil areas. Farm truck regulations have, we understand, been improved. We congratulate the Government on their willingness to assist farmers in obtaining necessary supplies of seed and feed following last year's disastrous flood and frost. We are pleased too at the plans made by our Provincial Department of Agriculture to

prevent by proper supervision, the spread of disease through community auction sale yards.

Finally we wish to commend you for the acceptance of the principle of Producer Marketing by giving second reading to the new Marketing Act. While we are not at all satisfied with the bill as it stands, it does at least mark a long step forward in meeting agricultural producers requests. As this matter is coming before the Agricultural Committee on Wednesday, May 11th, we shall have an opportunity of stating our views at that time. Consequently unless some member wishes to raise some questions on the subject here tonight we will leave discussion of the Marketing Act till then.

### 1. Farmers Rights

Coming to the subjects which we would like to discuss with you, we are placing first this question of what control, if any, a farmer has over trespassers on his land. Farmers all over Alberta are enraged over the fact that under present regulations they are powerless to prevent a horde of hunters and others from invading farm property at will.

We congratulate you on the resolution on this subject passed by the Assembly. Following that we participated in a meeting to work out a basis of putting it into effect. We, and farmers generally; assumed that this would take place this year. Our farm people are very disappointed to hear that the necessary legislation will not be forthcoming at this session. We certainly cannot accept as a valid reason, the excuse of lack of time to draw up the necessary legislation etc.

### 2. Assistance to Rural Telephone Lines

We believe that something should be done to promote the development of our rural telephone system in Alberta. Only about 25,000, or less than one-third of the farms in Alberta have telephones at the present time. After 50 years as a Province, we have actually installed only 500 rural phones a year on an average. Today with our farms undermanned as they are, a telephone is more necessary than ever.

It requires a considerable capital outlay to build rural telephone lines. We suggest that the Province set up a revolving fund on a basis



similar to that for Power Line construction. This in the long run should cost the Province nothing. It would require the large sums needed for the much more expensive R.E.A. Lines. It would make it possible to put telephones into districts which cannot finance the project themselves.

### 3. Assistance to Young Farmers

Another project badly needed in Alberta and other Provinces is some system whereby young men with farming experience and some cash, can be assisted to get a start on the land. The large capital outlay needed to start farming today makes it almost impossible for a young man to get started on his own resources.

We have in mind a plan something like the V.L.A. If the Federal Government could be induced to co-operate in this plan, the facilities of the V.L.A. would be available, and they would provide part of the money. Today there are many old men operating farms in Alberta because there is no practical way to transfer their holdings to young people. A plan such as we suggest would make that possible.

We realize that this project would require a lot of capital to finance until repayments were made, but we believe that the need is great. We are losing many of the best of our young men from the land. Something should be done. This Jubilee Year would be a good time to start.

### 4. Automobile Insurance

In our opinion one of the most important things the Provincial Government could do for Alberta people would be to institute a Provincial Plan of Car Insurance at cost. We believe that every car and truck on the road should carry P.L. & P. D. & Personal Accident Insurance to an adequate amount. A Provincial Plan covering all cars and trucks is the answer.

One approach to this matter might be a full investigation by a competent tribunal composed of persons not financially interested in the insurance business.

### 5. Truck Licenses

We contend that license fees on half ton farm trucks should be reduced to the same basis as automobiles. The half ton truck is the poor farmer's automobile. Many of them have to endure the discomfort of transporting their families in a light delivery because they cannot afford a car. While license fees on light cars were reduced from \$25.00 to \$15.00 the Chevrolet 1/2 ton remains at \$25.00. For years we have asked for redress on this matter. No change has as yet been made.

### 6. Mothers' Allowances

In this connection we have asked that Mothers'

Allowance be paid in full in all cases where the husband:

- (a) Is sent to jail
- (b) Is confined to a mental institution
- (c) Deserts his wife and children
- (d) Is incapacitated by disease or accident

In all cases enumerated here the wife is actually much worse off than if her husband had died. A widow can claim Mothers' Allowance as a right. Mothers in the cases we mention have to humiliate themselves by going to the Municipal authorities and begging for relief. This is usually given on the lowest possible scale.

### 7. Crop Insurance

We are interested in the extension of the P.F.A.A. into a real crop insurance plan with larger benefits and more complete coverage. This would require consent of the Provinces and also we think, financial assistance by those Provinces concerned in the plan. We would like to get some expressions of opinion from our Provincial members on this important matter.

We feel that the results of the 1954 crop damage has shown up the need for a system of Crop Insurance much more comprehensive than the P.F.A.A.

### CONCLUSION

While there are other very important matters in our Program, no purpose would be served by trying to deal with too many subjects at one meeting. We hope to meet you again when perhaps further developments have taken place.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

### F.U.A. BROADCASTS (Continued)

Many of our more sagacious people refuse to face the risks of farming and engage in safer kinds of business. Yet the western grain crop is a big factor in the economic life of Canada. When western farmers have no money, the many people in other parts of Canada are out of a job.

In our opinion, Western farmers should never be expected to carry the whole cost of crop insurance. A considerable part of it should be borne by the National Treasury. In recent years, the Government has contributed over \$53,000,000 per year to Unemployment Insurance. We have never objected to this, but we feel that the farmer is entitled to the same assistance too. Unemployment insurance does not help farmers, but crop insurance would.

To finance a real crop insurance plan we suggest first, that the levy on grain should be raised to perhaps 3 per cent. The present levy



of 1 per cent only pays about one third of the cost of P.F.A.A. on the old basis. Obviously we must contribute more if we want an enlarged plan. Secondly the Provincial Governments should be brought in to pay a share of the cost. They have a large stake in the welfare of their farmers. Why shouldn't they contribute to crop insurance? Then the Federal Government should administer the plan and be responsible for the balance of costs as they are doing under the present act. This is perfectly logical, as the Federal authorities have a basis of revenue which is not so much affected by crop damage in any one area or Province.

This is a rough outline of the plan which we will urge upon the Agricultural Committee, and the Government. We shall be met with all kinds of objections. Of course we know that there is a constitutional difficulty in making insurance a Federal matter. They did it for unemployment. It can be done for crop insurance.

However if our people across the Prairies are interested in Crop Insurance and get behind the idea, something along this line can be worked out. The widespread distress caused by only one year's failure has shown that a system of crop insurance is certainly needed in these Provinces.

#### F.U.A. BROADCAST No. 7

In a previous broadcast I called attention to the fact that Canadian farmers as a group do not get their fair share of the National Income. Over the past several years, the figure for agriculture has never been higher than about 11 per cent. In 1954 it was nine per cent, while 20 per cent of the Canadian people are still farmers. These figures show that on the average there is a basic disparity between farm income and other income in Canada.

Of course we realize that there is a wide difference between farm incomes in one part of the country and another. There is even a lot of difference right in the same district. However the basic fact which should never be forgotten by farmers, is that we do not get our fair share of the income of Canada.

This condition is neither good for the farmer nor for Canada. It means that we have one huge and important economic group on a lower standard of living. The prosperity of a lot of other people in Canada is affected by the amount which farmers have to spend. The permanent state of semi-depression in which the majority of Canadian farmers operate, is bad business for all those who make goods to sell to farmers. Of course some people may still have the old idea that farmers are the

hewers of wood and the drawers of water who should be satisfied to remain forever on a sort of subsistence plane. However most farmers today feel that Canadian farmers have a basic right to parity with other groups in the nation. Parity is the watchword of the Farm Union movement. We must never be satisfied with anything less.

Some people may ask what is Parity? We define it as a right relationship of prices between what the farmer buys and what he sells. To bring that about a new National Policy in relation to agriculture is required. Under the old policy other industries have been protected largely at the expense of farmers. If anyone doubts this let them explain why farmers get such a small share of the national income.

In spite of all the talk about "Free Enterprise" we have in Canada a partly-controlled economy. We have industries shielded competition by tariffs, by combines, and so-called "Gentleman's" agreements, etc. Labor has organized effectively for its own protection. To put Agriculture on a basis of equality we must have the principle of Parity accepted and adopted into the economic policy of the nation. This is not only fair to agriculture but to all other classes also.

(Continued Next Month)

#### DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

B.C. Block—June 23 at Ft. St. John  
 District 1—June 21 at Grande Prairie  
 District 2—June 25 at Peace River  
 District 3—July 7 at Clyde  
 District 4—July 5 at St. Paul  
 District 5—June 28 at Sangudo  
 District 6—July 6 at Lamont  
 District 7—July 4 at Wainwright  
 District 8—June 30 at Forestburg  
 District 9—July 8 at Wetaskiwin  
 District 10—June 17 at Olds  
 District 11—June 14 at Hanna  
 District 12—June 18 at Claresholm  
 District 13—June 7 at Medicine Hat  
 District 14—June 6 at Lethbridge

All Locals are urged to send one delegate for each 10 members or major portion thereof. Visitors are welcome but only the delegates are eligible to vote. Election of District Officials will take place, important matters will be discussed and addresses from both the F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. Presidents will be heard.

#### DISTRICT 6 SUB-DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Sub-district 1 — June 17th  
 Sub-district 2 — June 16th at Bremner Hall  
 Sub-district 3 — June 15th at Padola  
 Sub-district 4 — June 14th at Vegreville  
 Sub-district 5 — June 13th at Andrew





# Your U.G.G. Agent Can Serve You!

The advent of Spring brings to the farm a scene of all out activity. Once again, we in Western Canada embark on the hazardous yet challenging venture of raising a new crop to feed the people of many countries.

Co-operating in this vast undertaking are some 48,000 prairie farmers who own and operate their own grain handling organization . . . United Grain Growers Ltd. At this time these U.G.G. member-shareholders . . . and countless other progressive farmers . . . take advantage of the many services offered by this pioneer farm co-operative.

They turn with confidence to their local U.G.G. agent for advice and assistance in purchasing a wide range of farm supplies, in placing insurance on property and for help in many other ways.

Confidence of U.G.G. customers has come to be fully merited. It is a confidence founded on a long and satisfactory experience in dealing with a company whose constant aim is to serve the interests of western agriculture.

Your local U.G.G. agent can render assistance in many ways. Take advantage of his offer of a complete service to farmers.

## *United Grain Growers Ltd.*

"Serving Western Agriculture Since 1906"

# Division of Pool Earnings

The Alberta Wheat Pool is a true farmer co-operative and so follows the practice of distributing its surplus earnings as patronage dividends.

Over the past five years out of every dollar earned by Alberta Pool Elevators member patrons have received 23 cents in patronage dividends.

Distribution of gross earnings averaged:

| Patronage Dividends            |      | Cents |
|--------------------------------|------|-------|
| Cash .....                     | 6.5  |       |
| Reserves .....                 | 16.7 | 23.2  |
| Depreciation and surplus ..... |      | 11.2  |
| Operating expenses .....       |      | 65.6  |
| Total .....                    |      | 100.0 |

For the last five years disposition of earnings has been as follows:

It will be seen that Pool earnings do not go to profit-seeking shareholders but are returned to the member patrons who made them possible. Alberta Pool Elevators are owned by Alberta farmers and are operated solely for their benefit.

It pays to deliver your grain to Alberta Pool Elevators.

